

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS STATE 196238

EMBASSY PLS PASS TRIMBLE FROM NEA/INS TELLEEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, NP

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EVEREST EXPEDITION

REF: KATHMANDU 3383

1. CARMASSI ON VACATION, BUT ARLINGTON OFFICE OF RCA HAS CHECKED WITH HOME OFFICE AND ENGINEERS WHO CONSULTED WITH EXPEDITION. THEY SAY MERCURY BATTERIES WERE CONSCIOUSLY SENT BOTH IN RADIOS AND AS SPARES BECAUSE A) ALKALINE NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF SHIPMENT AND B) MERCURY WILL PERFORM AT LOW TEMPERATURES IF PROPERLY HANDLED. THEY EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF WARMING BOTH MERCURY AND ALKALINE BATTERIES WITH BODY HEAT OR OTHER SOURCE.

2. IN ABSENCE OF CARMASSI, UNABLE SO FAR TO DETERMINE WHY EXPEDITION NOT INFORMED OF BATTERY TYPE AT TIME OF SHIPMENT. RCA SEEMS TO HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ALKALINE BATTERIES WERE PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED BY EXPEDITION, AND INSISTS MERCURY WILL WORK. AT SAME TIME, THEY ARE CHECKING CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF ALKALINE BATTERIES TO SEE IF SOME MIGHT BE SENT. PLEASE ADVISE HOW HARD WE SHOULD PUSH THEM TO COME UP WITH ALKALINE BATTERIES. HABIB

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